

Chapter One: Background and Task Force Charge

Section One: Task Force Vision, Goals, Findings and Recommendations

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Governor Jane Dee Hull established the Transportation Vision 21 Task Force in February 1999. Executive Order 99-2, as amended by Executive Order 2000-16, identified a well-developed, reliable transportation system as crucial to the growth and economic vitality of the State of Arizona and as essential to the enhancement of intrastate and interstate commerce.

The Executive Order described an efficient transportation system as "a comprehensive network of multimodal components that work together to provide the orderly transportation of goods, services and people" and recognized that the "development, funding and maintenance of an efficient transportation system is a shared responsibility" of all governments.

The Executive Order charged the Task Force with "evaluating current practices, resources, and infrastructures, and recommending and prioritizing the goals, funding, and specific plans that will establish a vision for transportation in Arizona in the 21st Century". The Task Force was also given a variety of specific responsibilities in the Executive Order. Specifically the Task Force was directed to:

Identify critical, long-range transportation needs in both rural and urban areas of this State...;

Develop preliminary estimates of the long-term cost of implementing a comprehensive, multimodal, long-range transportation system plan and compare the estimated costs to the estimated revenues from existing, federal, state, and local transportation funding streams...;

Identify and recommend planning approaches and funding strategies to be used to establish a comprehensive, fully integrated, multimodal system that serves the future transportation needs of all of Arizona...;

Study and recommend guidelines and procedures for prioritizing Arizona's transportation needs and expenditures...;

Review the structures and responsibilities, with regard to transportation planning, of transportation agencies throughout the State; and

Report the consensus findings and recommendations of the Task Force" by December 31, 2001.

The Governor appointed thirty-one Task Force members from throughout the state. Ms Sharon B. Megdal, Ph.D., of Tucson and Mr. Martin Shultz of Phoenix were appointed to serve as Co-Chairs for the Task Force.

The Task Force established three committees to study various issues in greater detail and to forward critical information to the full Task Force as appropriate. The Task Force established the Definition of Needs, Resources and Revenues Committee, the Governance Committee, and the Planning and Programming Processes Committee. The committee membership list is illustrated inside the front cover. Each committee developed, adopted, and forwarded recommendations to the Task Force.

Definition of Needs, Resources and Revenues Committee

Ms Barbara Ralston serves as Chair and Mr. John Mawhinney as Vice Chair of the Definition of Needs, Resources and Revenues Committee. The Committee charge was as follows:

The Definition of Needs, Resources and Revenues Committee is responsible for identifying regionally significant long-range needs and projects in both rural and urban areas for the multimodal transportation system for Arizona in the 21st Century. The Committee is also examining the projected transportation revenues for the entire state of Arizona and evaluating the adequacy of projected revenues to meet the multimodal

transportation needs in Arizona for the 21st Century.

Multimodal project definitions and costs, revenue forecasts, analysis of existing revenue sources and a proposal of future sources to create a reliable funding stream are areas that will receive specific attention and focus by this Committee.

Governance Committee

Mr. Kurt Davis serves as Chair and Ms Lisa Atkins as Vice Chair of the Governance Committee. The Committee charge was as follows:

The Governance Committee is responsible for examining the structure, role, responsibilities and interrelationship of each of the transportation planning and delivery entities established by state and federal law. These entities include local government, tribal governments as well as regional and state transportation authorities. The Committee is also charged with evaluating the structure, role, responsibilities and interrelationships of each entity as it relates to the multimodal transportation infrastructure.

Planning and Programming Process Committee

Mr. Kevin Olson serves as Chair and Ms Diane McCarthy as Vice Chair of the Planning and Programming Committee. The Committee charge was as follows:

The Planning and Programming Process Committee is responsible for evaluating the current transportation planning processes at the local, regional and statewide levels for all transportation types and then develop a foundation for preparing a long-range (minimum of 20 years) multimodal transportation plan for the state of Arizona.

This Committee is relying, at least in part, on presentations from the local, regional, and state transportation planning and delivery agencies regarding their areas of

responsibility. The Committee is responsible for evaluating the processes used in preparation and application of transportation planning.

The Committee is also charged with evaluating project selection, project prioritization, project development, effectiveness of the public input process, and current multimodal transportation planning documents. They are also examining whether there are deficiencies within the current process and recommending improvements and modifications to the existing process.

The Task Force worked to identify critical, long-range transportation needs in Arizona's rural and urban areas and to develop preliminary estimates of the cost to implement a comprehensive, multimodal, long-range transportation system plan. These estimated costs were then compared to the estimated revenues from existing federal, state and local transportation funding streams.

The Task Force also worked to identify and recommend planning approaches and funding strategies to be used to establish a comprehensive, fully integrated, multimodal system to meet the future transportation needs of all of Arizona. It considered all aspects of transportation, including but not limited to, public roadways, highways, bus service, passenger rail, aviation, bicycle, pedestrian and travel reduction programs. The Task Force's strategies and recommendations address rural and urban transportation issues, as well as freight concerns throughout the State.

The Task Force studied and has developed recommendations for prioritizing Arizona's transportation needs and expenditures in relationship to the responsibilities of state, county, city and tribal governments, as well as state, regional, and local planning agencies. The Task Force reviewed the transportation planning structure and responsibilities of the State Transportation Board, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), local governments throughout the State, and local planning agencies.

The Task Force submitted an Interim Report to the Governor on December 15, 1999. Both the Interim Report and this report contain consensus findings and recommendations of the Task Force. As directed in the Executive Order, this report will be made available to Arizona's Congressional delegation, the members of the Arizona State Legislature, state, county, local, and tribal transportation departments, the

State's universities and the private sector (including community and citizen groups).

Information concerning the Task Force may be obtained at the Task Force office within ADOT at 206 S. 17th Avenue, 310B, Phoenix, Arizona 85007, at the Task Force website, <http://www.dot.state.az.us/vision21>, or by e-mail at vision21@dot.state.az.us.